

Assembly Bill 1981

Collaborative Opportunities for Rehabilitation Act of 2006

Sponsor— CA Department of Justice
Author – Assembly Member Karen Bass (D – 47)

Issue

With the overall growth in jail population and increasing fiscal challenges for counties to expand facilities, California jails are struggling to assist in the successful transition of their inmates back into the community.

Expanding correctional facilities at both the state and county level leave little funding to provide services that address the underlying problems of low-level offenders. Without appropriately attending to these issues, the cycle of crime and recidivism rates remain high, which in turn threatens the overall public safety of California residents.

This Bill

AB 1981 establishes the Collaborative Opportunities for Rehabilitation Act of 2006 (CORE).

Through the CORE program, the Department of Justice seeks to award assistance to community-based programs that can successfully partner with law enforcement to provide education, rehabilitation, employment, and mental health services to probationers before they violate probation and before entering state prison, where the likelihood of successful rehabilitation drops significantly.

SUMMARY

- This bill demonstrates a collaborative approach between community-based organizations and law enforcement agencies to combat issues of recidivism that negatively affect the communities, and threaten the public safety of California citizens.

- This bill addresses the obstacles to successful reintegration of ex-offenders into society through offering services that include job training and placement, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, housing assistance, mental health assistance, and other comprehensive transitional services.
- Through this bill, the Department of Justice will develop application criteria and procedures that will uphold the strictest evaluations of program effectiveness and collaboration between organizations and local law enforcement agencies.
- This bill requires the Department of Justice to submit a biennial report to the Legislature and Governor on the results of the program.
- This bill will increase understanding and trust between local law enforcement, community members, and ex-offenders.

BACKGROUND

- In CA, 70% of paroled felons re-offend within 18 months of their release date, *representing the highest recidivism rate in the nation.*
- The average prisoner costs California's taxpayers \$33, 615 to re-incarcerate.
- A California study reported that for every \$1 spent on treatment, approximately \$7 could be gained in future savings.

SUPPORT

CA Attorney General's Office (Sponsor)
CA Department of Justice
Tax Payers for Improving Public Safety
CA Public Defenders Association
LA County Probation Officers Union
LA County Sheriff, Leroy Baca
CA Catholic Conference on Bishops
Peace Officers Research Association of CA

OPPOSITION

No current opposition

STATUS

Assembly Appropriations (Suspense)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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